

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically implementing a chain of Web services from a client on the World Wide Web to execute a workflow for analyzing microarray data, comprising:

a database for storing a list of available Web services, wherein each listed Web service includes a description of a task performed by the Web service and an input signature and an output signature of the Web service, wherein the Web service comprises a computer program accessible over the World Wide Web; and

a selecting system for forming the chain of Web services by selecting a Web service from the list of available Web services for each of a plurality of tasks in the workflow, wherein the workflow comprises a series of linked tasks and a specified input and output format, and wherein the selecting system examines a set of available Web services configured to execute ~~capable of completing~~ each task and identifies and selects at least one Web service having matching input and output signatures ensuring that each Web service selected to complete a task is compatible with adjacent Web services in the chain of Web services; and

a signature matching system for identifying the set of available Web services configured to execute each task, wherein for each task the identifying comprises identifying all Web services in the list of available Web services having at least one of the matching input and output signatures for each task.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the workflow comprises a microarray analysis workflow.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a workflow generator for creating the workflow.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the list of available Web services resides locally with the client.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a system for collecting and storing available Web services data.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a system for inputting sequence data into the workflow execution.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the input signature comprises a FASTA XML format for a set of input sequences and the output signature comprises an XML file format for providing spatial microarray placement data.

8. (Currently Amended) A program product, stored on a recordable medium for executing a workflow for analyzing microarray data by dynamically implementing Web services from a client on the World Wide Web, comprising:

program code configured ~~means~~ for storing a list of available Web services, wherein each listed Web service includes a description of a task performed by the Web service, and an input signature and an output signature of the Web service; and

program code configured ~~means~~ for forming a chain of Web services by selecting a Web service from the list of available Web services for each of a plurality of tasks in the workflow, wherein the workflow comprises a series of linked tasks and a specified input and output format, and wherein the selecting ~~forming~~ ~~means~~ examines a set of available Web services configured to execute ~~capable of completing~~ each task and identifies and selects at least one Web service having matching input and output signatures ensuring that each Web service selected to complete a task is compatible with adjacent Web services in the chain of Web services; and

program code configured for identifying the set of available Web services configured to execute each task, wherein for each task the identifying comprises identifying all Web services in the list of available Web services having at least one of the matching input and output signatures for each task.

9. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the workflow comprises a microarray analysis workflow.

10. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the workflow comprises a bioinformatics workflow.
11. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 8, further comprising program code configured ~~means~~ for creating the workflow.
12. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 8, wherein the storage ~~means~~ resides locally with the client.
13. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 12, further comprising program code configured ~~means~~ for collecting and storing available Web services data in said storage ~~means~~.
14. (Original) The program product of claim 8, further comprising a system for inputting sequence data into the workflow execution.
15. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 8, wherein the input signature comprises a FASTA XML format for a set of input sequences and the output signature comprises an XML file format for providing spatial microarray placement data.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for executing a bioinformatics workflow from a client on the World Wide Web, comprising:

providing a workflow having a plurality of linked tasks and a specified input and output format;

providing a list of known bioinformatics Web services, wherein each listed Web service includes a description of a task performed by the Web service, and an input signature and an output signature of the Web service, further wherein the Web service comprises a computer program accessible over the World Wide Web;

selecting a Web service from the list of known bioinformatics Web services for each task in the bioinformatics workflow to form a chain of Web services, wherein the selecting step examines a set of available Web services configured to execute ~~capable of completing~~ each task and identifies and selects at least one Web service having matching input and output signatures ensuring that each Web service selected to complete a task is compatible with adjacent Web services in the chain of Web services; and

identifying the set of available Web services configured to execute each task, wherein for each task the identifying comprises identifying all Web services in the list of available Web services having at least one of the matching input and output signatures for each task; and

calling each selected Web service in the chain to execute the bioinformatics workflow.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the bioinformatics workflow comprises a microarray analysis.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the list of known bioinformatics Web services resides locally to the client.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the input signature comprises a FASTA XML format for a set of input sequences and the output signature comprises an XML file format for providing spatial microarray placement data.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of calling each selected Web service includes the step of providing a set bioinformatics data to a first Web service in the chain in the specified input format.